

THE BLUFFTON PEACE SENTINEL

Vol. 1

Bluffton, Indiana, February 13, 1942

No. 15

DR. FAST

VISITS CAMP

Dr. H. A. Fast, general director of Menmonite camps, visited Bluffton yesterday and today, coming here from Lagro, Indiana where the China Relief unit is receiving intensive training, preparatory to sailing for China.

In his talk to the camp assembly last night Dr. Fast indicated the importance of a continued effort to make our work and conduct commendable to the public. With the country at war we are given increased incentive to that end.

Dr. Fast also pointed out the value of the G.P.S. program as a unifying and training factor for Christian living. He discussed various special out of camp projects being planned and stated that men for these projects will be chosen from among those who have adapted themselves satisfactorily to the life and work of the camp.

C.O.'s Catch Rabbits

A special "open season" was declared on rabbits on Monday and Tuesday of last week and Wednesday and Thursday of this week. A total of 990 cottontails were literally out-run by the boys during this four day drive. The climax came last Wednesday when 298 rabbits were caught alive, setting a new all state record for a days catch. The previous record of 250 had been set by the CCC boys. For further details see the Forestry report on page three.

An interesting program has been prepared for Sunday evening February 15. Clarence "Shorty" Hershberger will lead the meeting and talks will be given by Emanuel Schrock, Norman Zook and Cleland Gunden. Carl Lehman will lead an open discussion on missionary opportunities.

WATER SUPPLY

ENDANGERED

On Friday evening February 6 Mr. Moesch, from the State Department of Conservation, Indianapolis, visited the camp. He demonstrated the need for conservation, using color pictures to emphasize the high-points of his talk.

Mr. Moesch stressed the importance of conserving our natural water supply. The unwise cutting of trees on hillsides and the lack of vegetation has caused the run-off of water to increase year after year. He mentioned the fact that New Orleans, while on the gulf at one time, is now located some ninety miles inland. Drainage of lowlands and swamps has lowered the water level considerably. Many of these areas, after six years of cultivation, have become useless as farming land. During dry summer months the soil is blown into drifts much like snow. Modern air conditioning of department stores, offices, and public buildings, requiring millions of gallons of water, was also blamed for lowering the water table.

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Camp Quartets Sing

The camp quartets are in considerable demand. The principal of the Vera Cruz school, after hearing the quartet made up by Judson, Milo, Harley and Ralph, sing at a Methodist meeting, invited them to sing for the grade school children on Friday afternoon, February 6. The children were so well pleased with the half dozen songs that the boys have a standing invitation to come back at any time. Also they were asked to sing at a cottage prayer meeting at Ossian that evening.

On Sunday, Feb. 22, the same quartet will accompany the Berne Missionary Union and will sing at the Veterans Hospital in Marion, Indiana.

Harley Rhines, an "alumnus" of this camp, was recently asked to arrange for

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HEROIC PATTERNS MEDITATIONS

by Willis Hershberger



Menno Simons was born in a Peasant home in the year 1496. The place of his birth was a little village a few miles from the coast of the North Sea in Holland.

At the age of 28 Menno entered the priesthood at the village of Pinjum. Although the life of a young priest was rollicking and jolly, young Menno had an open mind and tender conscience. When the works of Luther passed among the clergy, he found his faith in the Catholic Church slipping. As more protestant literature including that of the Anabaptists, came into his possession, he resorted to the New Testament for information and concluded that much of the Catholic teaching was wrong. A short time later, a group of three hundred Anabaptists were slaughtered a few miles from his home; this was the deciding blow, so Menno laid aside his priestly robes, and embarked into a life of uncertainty, poverty, misery, having always the threat of imprisonment, persecution, and death.

No other reformer made a greater sacrifice. Menno, his wife and children lived always in the shadow of the great power of the state. The mind of Menno Simons was moved by the power of God working through his conscience.

WATER SUPPLY ENDANGERED

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Mr. Moesch showed interesting scenes on the Tippecanoe River and discussed the fishing possibilities there. He also showed scenes from the various state fish hatcheries where the propagation and restocking of fish is being done.

The discussion and questions following the talk indicated an enthusiastic reception of what had been said and no doubt will develop into a greater appreciation of the work being done by the Department of Conservation.

by
Mrs. G.F. Hershberger

Be strong!

We are not here to play, to dream, to drift;
We have hard work to do, and loads to lift.
Shun not the struggle; face it.
'Tis God's gift.

Be strong!

Say not the days are evil--Whot to blame?
And fold the hands and acquiesce--O shame!
Stand up, speak out, and bravely,
In God's name.

Be strong!

It matters not how deep entrenched the wrong,
How hard the battle goes, the day how long,
Faint not, fight on!
Tomorrow comes the song.

-- Maltbie D. Babcock

We must remember that it is not in any easy or self-indulgent life that Christ will lead us to greatness. The easy life leads not upward, but downward. Heaven always is above us, and we must ever be looking up toward it. There are some people who always avoid things that are costly, that require self-denial, or self-restraint and sacrifice, but toil and hardship show us the only way to nobleness. Greatness comes not by having a mossy path made for you through the meadow, but by being sent to hew out a roadway by your own hands. Are you going to reach the mountain splendors?

-- Selected

CCC MAN PLEASED

Mr. G.L. Dimmick, CCC inspector for the Regional Forestry Division at Milwaukee visited the camp last Wednesday, February 11. He expects to visit all the C.P.S. camps and expressed great interest in this camp, the first of its kind he had seen. The quality of work being done, the neatness and general appearance of the camp, the attitude and cheerful disposition of the men; all these brought favorable comment. When he saw the camp chapel he was interested, and remarked that a similar house of worship might be useful to the CCC.

Laundry Notes

by

Albert Jones

Last Saturday evening we had a well attended auction. The unmarked laundry, which had accumulated in the ironing room, was sold to the highest bidder. Elmer Yoder served as auctineer and Mrs. Hershberger as clerk. Occasionally visitors ask whether this is an ironing room or a work-shop. "Sometimes we wonder too."

If a little trouble occasionally helps us appreciate the good things we have, then the trouble we had with the wringer on our washer must have been a good thing rather than the nuisance we thought it was.



FISH AND GAME PROJECT

by

Dennis Lehman

During the past few months it has been part of the work of Elmer Bontrager and Milo Stalter, the Game plumbers, to repair water hydrants. With winter coming on, these hydrants had to be protected from freezing. So they were packed with sacks and hay from eighteen inches below the surface of the ground to the top of the hydrant leaving only the faucet projecting out to which a hose could be attached. This was only a temporary set-up. Throughout the Game Preserve there are approximately ninety of these hydrants.

When a hydrant needed to be repaired, it was necessary to dig a hole, five feet deep and five feet in diameter to the main pipe line to which the hydrant was connected. After the repair work was completed the ground was put back into the hole. If this same hydrant needed repairing again then the same process would have to be gone through, taking considerable time and labor.

Recently, it has been decided that around each of these hydrants, there is to be a concrete wall six inches thick and six feet deep. The inside being thirty inches square giving enough room for one man to get down to where the hydrant is connected to the main pipe line. This certainly will save much time and labor.

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FORESTRY PROJECT

by

Bud Rensberger



Rabbit Hunt

"Bring them back alive" was the motto for all Campers the first two days of last week. Frank Buck has nothing on these C.O's. when it comes to catching wild animals. Our victims perhaps were not as dangerous as Mr. Buck's prey, but certainly they were just as wild. A light snow fell Sunday evening making it ideal for rabbit hunting, however, little attention was given to tracking rabbits, because of the number of tracks and runways crisscrossing. Mr Hammond lead the group of approximately 71 fellows to the game preserve. A line was formed and the men started marching across the field. Rabbits could be seen hopping ahead of the men. However, nobody was to chase after them as yet. After cornering the rabbits they started to come back through the lines. It was here that the chase began. Shouts of "here she comes" and a little later "there she goes" could be heard all day, especially in the evening when the men were beginning to tire. When a rabbit broke through the lines a few men would start running after it.

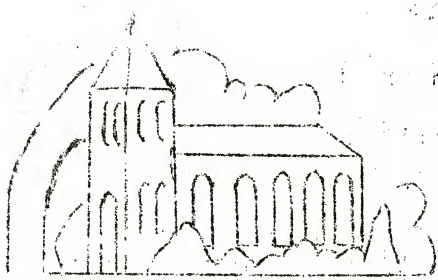
A Race For Endurance

They would run and run and hope that the rabbit would give up before they did. When the fellows thought that the rabbit had made his last zig or zag, one of them would dive for the cotton tail. More than once somebody hit the ground only to find the hare had scampered on a few yards. Dave Yoder, Chris Raber, and Nate Benner seemed to have the knack of bringing in the most victims.

When the rabbits were counted at the close of the first day, it was found that the fellows just missed hitting the 240 mark by a hare.

The second day was not quite as fruitful as the first day, because some of the fellows could hardly put one leg ahead of the other. The Climax was reached at the close of the second day. The men chased a rabbit into a culvert.

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THE BLUFFTON PEACE SENTINEL

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ARE WE READY?

Who will carry the gospel to Japan after the war is over? Will it be those missionaries who were there before the war started? Will they be able to return?

These are questions confronting Christians interested in this, the greatest work of the church. For the answer we must remember that it will not be easy for the people of Japan to understand a gospel of love from those whom they believe to be their enemies. It is a tragedy that the few churches who were sending missionaries to Japan are now jeopardizing this privilege by supporting the war against Japan.

How it must grieve the One whose last great commission to His disciples was, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature", to see the churches of America spending more money and sending more men to fight Japan than they ever have to send them the Gospel of Christ. If only a few more had carried the message of salvation the tragedy of Pearl Harbor might have been avoided. But it is too late now---the war is here and the doors are closed.

Will they ever open again? Will the Japanese people be able to forget the past? The seriousness of the question lies in the fact that no matter what we may think about it, the Japanese undoubtedly believe they are waging an unavoidable and righteous war. It will make it hard for them to accept the gospel from men whom they consider responsible for the death of those whom they have loved.

Will it be no longer possible to send missionaries to Japan? Will no one be able to bring them the gospel which might have prevented this war? For the only hope of a positive answer the eyes of Christendom may have to turn to the peace churches. If they do, will we be ready?

---CML

HOW MUCH BROTHERHOOD?

About seven years ago I preached a sermon on the theme: "Brotherhood or Disaster!" In it I tried to set out the necessity of bringing in a spirit of brotherhood among the various races and nationalities of men, or the world would find itself plunged into awful disaster. I do not claim any prophetic gift, but the prediction has come true to a larger and more terrible degree than one could then foresee.

And now we are called upon to observe a national Brotherhood Week. With the tides of war carrying us farther and farther from friendly attitudes toward the people of our enemy nations; with the war with Japan undergirded with an aversion toward the Japanese of long standing and enhanced by our exclusion act; and with the cleavage

between whites and blacks in our country now driven deeper than at any time in our generation,--with all of these before us and tragically afoot, one scarcely knows whether the prospect of a Brotherhood Week is to be viewed as pathetic or ironical. Is it something to weep over or sneer at?

How much brotherhood do we really have? How much more do we desire? Do we want the term expanded to include all that Jesus included in it, embracing all men to the ends of the earth? If so, by all means let us keep Brotherhood Week with a new spirit in our hearts and a new purpose in our lives.

R.L.H.

Kitchen Left-Overs

BY PAUL A. KINZER

Here is one for the books. The other day Lyle Strauss told his cooks to start peeling potatoes for dinner. When they were about done he happened to look on the menu and saw that it called for sweet potatoes instead of white ones. So after another hour of peeling they had two meals of potatoes ready.

Myrtle took a well earned vacation last week visiting friends in Goshen. She is getting good at preparing menus a week ahead.

"Doc" Franklin Schrock is having more trouble in the kitchen! The other day he slipped on the tin part of the floor, a little later he dropped a tray of food, and to top it all off he hit his head against a stove and now has his head in a sling! We think some one ought to take care of doc.

This is the present list of cooks and waiters resulting from the shake-up in the kitchen force which took place this week: Forenoon cooks: Raymond Thomas, Norman Begly, Melvin Yoder, Jesse Reigsecker. Afternoon cooks: Monasses Borntrager, Paul A. Yoder. Waiters: Paul Kinzer, Raymond Miller, Paul J. Yoder, Marvin Aupperle, Paul Birky, Clarence Horshberger, Howard Wenger.

CAMP QUARTET SINGS

(Continued from page 1)
the evening service, Feb. 1, at the Defenceless Mennonite Church at Woodburn, Indiana, of which he is a member. He accordingly invited C.P.S. #13 to send a delegation to Woodburn for that purpose. The invitation was accepted and the quartet, consisting of Howard Wenger, Norman Zook, Max Swartzell and Edwin Rutt, made the trip to Woodburn, accompanied by Miss Kolb and Rev. Hartzler of the camp staff. After a sumptuous supper at Hartley's home, which did not at all increase efficiency in speaking or singing, the group journeyed through a snowstorm to the church, and by song and story presented the spirit and work of the camp to a very appreciative audience.

Visiting Pastor Spoke Sunday

Abraham Good, pastor of the Mennonite church near Wadsworth, Ohio, of which Norman Begly is a member, spoke at the Sunday morning service in the camp chapel on February 8. He gave an inspirational sermon, using as a text Psalms 119:9, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word." His timely sermon and the interest of both he and his church in the camp were deeply appreciated.

Great Warriors' Ideas Of War —

Napoleon said at St. Helena, "The more I study the world, the more I am convinced of the inability of brute force to create anything durable." George Washington said, "My first wish is to see this plague (war) to mankind banished from the earth."



TIME

OUT

Due to the article "You Too Can Be A New Man" in the last issue of the Saturday Evening Post, some boys of dorm B have been taking considerable interest in Charles Atlas' method of body building. In fact one of the boys declares himself "Atlas Jr." after a few lessons.



Max Swartzel decided to improve his physique by chasing rabbits with the "higger boys" last week. He said he didn't catch any but laid hands pretty close to one. Could be.

Feb. 8, 1942 will be remembered by quite a few of the dorm B boys. It seems as though all previous "cold receptions" were fiery furnaces compared to the good abode when they returned at 11:59 P.M. from week end leaves and chorus singing at Nappanee, Ind. All windows were wide open, light bulbs hid, fire out, and the door quite ajar. In the dim moonlight it could be seen that those who had planned the hoax were suffering quite as much as those coming in later. Wool stocking caps were quite in evidence and blankets 6 inches thick were on each bed-----maybe a second thought on pranks of this sort would be in order.

Marvin Aupperle tuning in, "Sounds like is going to rain". "Use Guy" Edwin Rutt, "Be a long dry spell if it doesn't".

How about this rabbit that Bud Hartman felt so affectionate toward that he tried to kiss and was clawed in the face. Could it be that his mind has been wandering again?

One of the big troubles with being a night watch is the fact that you have to dress in bed every Sunday afternoon while visitors file through.

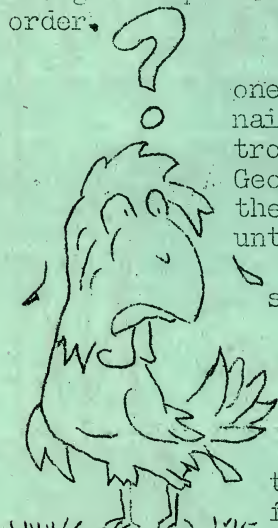
Someone tells us that Howard Wenger has his own private shower in dorm G. At least he gets a good drenching now and then from the rafters.

Our sympathy goes to Fred Stamm, our "Safty Superintendent", who got his finger in the plainer-----which did not have a guard.

Good thing our coal got here when it did because in another few hours we would have been burning pure top soil. In fact we calculate that we already burned about ten yards of this good top soil that Mr. Hammond prizes so highly.

Looks like "the boys" never grow too old to send their lady love a token on Valentine Day. In fact it begins to look like the Bluffton Post Office will be forced to put on special help for Dan Cupid's benefit.

With the change in kitchen staff, we are prepared for anything ---- someone even was heard whispering that the new head cook tasted too much of his own food last Monday and was taken care of by the camp Doc. Anyone know anything about it?



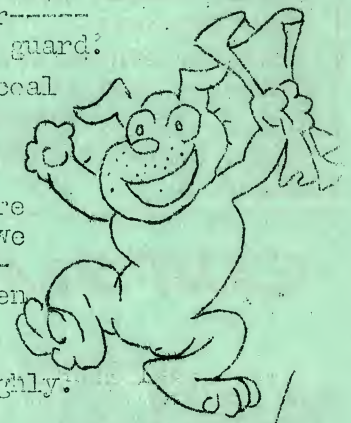
Ray Liechty claims that one day last week he drove a nail through George Smith's trousers into the bench. George was loafing on and the crime was not discovered until dinner time-----two hours later. Shame on such mechanics.

Someone should find out whether it is unlawful to use a sling-shot around here. (This office feels pretty sure that shooting holes in fellow workers hats is not legitimate use of the instrument.) Right or wrong, Wickie Miller has a supply of the arms for sale-----as long as his rubber tire tube lasts. Instructions are free.

From the project comes the report that Wayne Gross would have been appointed "custodian of the rat traps" but the committee feared that he would eat too much cheese to make the whole idea practical.

Extra Recipient of "Peace Sentinal" writes to dorm D "Editors of the paper sure do a good job". Bud Hartman comes back, "Oh, they do that with the typewriter."

We can think of better things to do, when the lights fail, than a fire drill. How about a black out?



The Spirit of Nonresistance

Guy F. Hershberger

The American people love democracy. Many of their fathers left Europe in order to escape the tyranny of undemocratic governments. For almost three centuries the American frontier fostered a new type of life. We call it the American way. It is essentially democratic. It stands for equality of opportunity, freedom of thought, freedom of religion, freedom of speech. We cherish this democratic American way. We desire its perpetuation. John Dewey has trained a generation of public school teachers in education for democracy. In 1917-18 Woodrow Wilson led the entire nation in a crusade to make the world safe for democracy. And now the united nations are engaged in another gigantic struggle for the defense of democracy.

So much is being said of democracy that one would almost suppose it to be the highest good. Some even think of the C.P.S. Camp program chiefly in terms of democracy. Some would support the program chiefly because of its contribution to this cause. Others think of the life with in the camp chiefly as an experiment, or an opportunity for training, in democratic living. Certainly democracy is a way of life highly prized by all of us. Prospects of losing it could not be taken lightly. But do not conscientious objectors place their program on a dangerously low level when they make democracy their chief objective? The Christian conscientious objector is concerned primarily with the Christian way of life, not the democratic way. Democracy is a man-centered concept. Christianity is God-centered. The democratic way of life is merely human. The Christian way of life is divine. Christian nonresistance does not reject warfare merely because its social consequences are bad. It cannot engage in warfare because to do so would be to violate the will of a holy and righteous God. True, the social results of obedience to God will always be good. And one of the roots of western democracy is certainly to be found in Christianity. But

FISH and CAME PROJECT (continued from page 3)

So in the past week some of the men of the Forestry division built forms and poured the concrete under the direction of Mr. Philipps. To date we have three man holes completed, two in the north quail field and one in the west quail field. We have several more dug ready for the forms to be set.

When a man talks because he enjoys hearing himself talk, other people will be quite willing to let him have all the pleasure.

FOOD for THOUGHT by Myrtle Kolb

Autograph albums almost always give me a pain. They are usually full of senseless little rhymes and people looking through them may well be excused for wondering what kind of folk the owner wanted to remember as his friends. But occasionally one finds something worthwhile. My dad had such a book-- and it had its share of silly verses, but it also contained the following.

"He who attempts something and fails is infinitely better than he who attempts nothing and beautifully succeeds."

My childhood memory is of a satisfyingly mouth-filling sentence, but as I grew up the words took on more and more meaning. How often they provided the necessary push when I was hesitating about some undertaking for fear of not being able to carry it through to a glorious end! And how equally often they entered upon, crumpled in the dust, and it was hard to get pulled together for the next. But the sin is not in failing -- it is in not trying. He who attempts something, although he fails, is infinitely better.

if conscientious objectors focus their efforts on democratic living rather than on Christian living they are aiming too low. If they walk this path too far they may find themselves on the road which leads away from God altogether.

FORESTRY PROJECT

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All the fellows got down on their knees and made a circle surrounding the one end of the culvert. The rabbit was poked out at the other end. The innocent bunny stuck his head out and looked the situation over. He must have decided that there was only one way out. He made a dash straight for the line. All the fellows drew closer to the ground and coupled their hands. The next instant the fellows were looking over their shoulders watching the rabbit running down the pathway.

The rabbits are to be liberated again in sections of the State where rabbits are more scarce.

Talks by the Technical Staff

Because of the rainy weather the past week the technical staff has been giving short talks to the campees. Mr. Cook discussed the methods and equipment used in fighting forest fires. Mr. Hammond gave an interesting talk on Friday. He discussed the reasons for C.C.C. and C.P.S. Camps, and stressed the importance of soil conservation and our water supply. For future meetings he expects to discuss other natural resources. The talks were appreciated by the fellows because they give a better understanding of the purpose of the work they are doing.

During an accidental "black out" the other evening Lowell Horshberger was discovered reading the dictionary by candle-light. A new Lincoln???

IN OTHER CAMPS

"Book lovers will be glad to know that at the camp recently received fifty more books as a loan from the State Traveling Library of Iowa. These books have been placed on the shelves in the reading room. A book-a-month club has also been started at this camp. It is hoped that many men will join this club and promise to read at least one book a month."

—C.P.S. Camp No. 18, Dennison, Iowa.

"Colored pictures of Merom camp life have been shown some 25 times to between 2,500 and 3,000 people in the last three months and are now booked for every weekend to the first of March.

The pictures show campers doing soil conservation work on nearby farms, and erecting the dormitories in which we live as well as scenes on the camp's subsistence farm. Every aspect of camp life, from morning devotions to the campers' response to the dinner song was filmed."

—C.P.S. Camp No. 14, Merom, Indiana.

"Wellington, N.Z.—(N.P.)—Conscientious objectors in New Zealand who are not granted complete exemption by their tribunals and who refuse induction into the army are being detailed for the duration of the war in defaulters' camps. As far as is known at present, no Quakers have been refused exemption, but non-Quakers have not been accorded the same treatment. Interned objectors are being reasonably well treated, and are doing constructive work."

—C.P.S. Camp No. 17, Manistee, Michigan.

Civilian Public Service
Camp No. 13
Bluffton, Indiana

Sec. 562 H.L. & R.

